



# Town of Abington

## OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY  
ABINGTON, MA 02351  
(781) 982-2100  
FAX (781) 982-2138

**Minutes  
Board of Selectmen  
March 29, 2010  
6:30 p.m.  
Cotter Room**

Members Present: Tom Corbett, Rich Cunningham, Jerry Corcoran, Chris Aiello, Andy Burbine

6:30 p.m. Police Chief, David Majenski – Fundraiser road race. Chief Majenski gave a rundown on a May 22<sup>nd</sup> road race with proceeds to go to Park and Rec. Commission. This event could possibly be done annually. There will be a planning meeting on April 12th at 7 p.m. at the Police Station for anyone interested. Deputy Chief Cutter came up with the idea for the event that could be fun for the whole family, as well as a positive community event. Information is on-line at [www.abingtonpolice.org](http://www.abingtonpolice.org).

D/Jamieson recognized Seoane Landscaping for providing the beautiful arrangements in the planters in front of Town Hall. They did this voluntarily, and D/Jamieson expressed her thanks and appreciation.

Revitalization of North Abington update. – Construction is soon to begin, starting with roadway work as early as April 5<sup>th</sup>. These improvements are being done under a Public Works Economic Development grant through the State. Superintendent of Streets is requesting that vehicles be parked off the involved roadways as much as possible throughout the construction periods.

Approval of Little League Parade, April 24, 2010 – This parade kicks off the Little League season at 11 a.m., to begin at the VFW.

M/Cunningham to approve the parade

S/Corcoran

Voted 5-0. April 24<sup>th</sup> is also clean-up day and Election Day.

Acceptance of gift account for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – passed over until a committee is formed.

Discussion on agreement regarding field maintenance machines – Board has an agreement before them. Maintenance would be on a volunteer basis, using town equipment, but would require a certificate of insurance. Town counsel suggested the Board not act on this tonight due issues that still have to be worked out, including union issues. A union meeting is scheduled for next week. There are bargaining issues and this would be setting a new precedent. Volunteers would be leasing town equipment.

M/Corcoran to look into this further before taking action

S/Burbine  
Voted 5-0

Discussion on Town Manager candidates. Mr. Aspinwall withdrew from consideration.  
J/Corcoran questioned procedures that had been followed.

M/Aiello to nominate John D'Agostino as Town Manager  
S/Cunningham

Discussion ensued with J/Corcoran expressing reservations about Mr. D'Agostino's appointment.

Voted 4-1. T/Corbett will contact Mr. D'Agostino, as well as the other candidates.

Review of Ballot questions and impact – three questions to be excluded from budget, which will be voted on at the April 24<sup>th</sup> elections. #1 for \$323,000 to purchase information technology equipment consisting of computers and associated equipment, telephone system; fire engine and fire rescue vehicle. #2 pay for bond issued to finance ECC roof and water drainage construction and repair. #3 \$275,000 for the first phase of capping of the landfill. This would be paid for outside the budget process, an additional cost to the taxpayers if these questions pass. Debt exclusion would be a total of \$617,000 for these three questions. DOR recommended the town fire capital exclusion be taken in one year rather than two years. The impact on a \$300,000 house for debt exclusions and Prop. 2.5 would be \$155.60. Fire equipment would be paid for in one year, as well as IT, and first phase of the landfill. ECC roof would be paid off over the next seven years, with \$143,825 this year, somewhat less thereafter as interest declines. If this passes, it brings us to Phase III. If it fails, we go to Phase IV.

T/Corbett – a meeting will be scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> (possible date) to get information out to the public. Will confer with FinCom, Town Manager and Moderator to set definite date. Steve Maguire – questions on #3 the landfill – is this a fixed cost or could it be more than \$275,000? D/Jamieson - this is just for initial phase, which could be less. The \$275,000 is SEA Consultant's estimate for first phase.

Discussion on FY2011 budget – T/Corbett extended thanks to D/Jamieson, department heads and financial group for all their help with information and meetings, etc. D/Jamieson recognized everyone's help also.

A/Burbine went over a list of reductions he's suggesting (attached). His aim is to get everyone back to level funded. This proposal would bring us down to \$212,480 deficit, which would come out of Waste Collection Budget if Town goes with pay-as-you-throw system.

R/Cunningham - partial pay as you throw would ring out the waste, but would keep the basic system intact. You could allow everyone one barrel, and anything on top of that you would have to pay for. Would like to see the Board of Health put something into action. Debt exclusion is first step.

D/Jamieson could look into if it would be better to put money in Highway or Park and Rec to maintain fields. It was agreed at Town Meeting last year that the lawns would be cut by the Highway Department, not the fields. Steve Wakelin – they are trying to raise \$40,000 in user

fees, but that doesn't maintain fields. They are asking for \$192,000. An override amount needed would be \$192,000 – that would include mowing, lining, fertilization, trash, sprinkler systems, and opening and closing of fields. They are in crisis with fields, with season starting next week, and fields are not lined yet. This would include two seasonal and one full time – this would be the money they raise through fees. They are hoping to get back to two full time and three seasonal employees. J/Corcoran – lining should go back to schools as well as maintenance. Shawn Reilly – in '73 or '74 Park & Rec took over maintenance of all Town property, to consolidate, save money on equipment, be more efficient, which worked.

D/Jamieson commented on A/Burbine's proposals – wouldn't suggest making that change before the new Town Manager starts. That should be his decision. She wouldn't make that change, she would cut elsewhere. The IT budget is needed; wait for town manager to make that evaluation. Still feels building inspector should be full time position; 19.5 hours is not enough. This can cause liability to the town. D/Jamieson still supports her budget and to go with pay as you throw, with a cut town-wide of \$582,000. J/Corcoran supported the Assistant Town Manager's position. A/Burbine just didn't know if we could afford that position, nothing personal. Discussion on Assistant Town Manager's position continued.

A/Burbine suggested residents put pressure on the state for level funding of local aid; contact our state representative and senator.

M/Burbine for the Board to draft a letter to the state

S/Corcoran

Voted 5-0.

Discussion on Health Insurance split – Plymouth County Health Group is increasing rates by 10.5% and co-pays to increase effective July 1, 2010, eliminating master health plus. Name has been changed to Mayflower Municipal Group. D/Jamieson is currently negotiating impact of these changes. At last BOS Executive Session, it was voted for negotiations with union and non-union employees for a 60/40 split, part time would be 50/50 split. This is subject to union negotiations. It would be a savings of \$881,000, but that does not include any mitigation. D/Jamieson's recommendation was not to count on these funds for FY2011. There was an insurance advisory meeting last week, with another one scheduled this week. Plymouth County is currently augmenting our insurance and will not be doing that next year. New Town Manager will come in under 60/40 split, as well as all new contracts. Board has the authority right now to make this vote for non-union personnel without a contract stating otherwise, and all retirees to go to a 60/40 split.

Richard Smith, Firefighters Union – cautioned board on this discussion, which is subject to collective bargaining.

Review of Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants – each article reviewed for Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting, with the exception of the budget. Petition articles 7, 8 are sense of the meeting votes; 9 - sense of meeting vote (BOS has authority to declare this surplus); 10 - sense of meeting; 11 - sense of meeting (requires a special act); 12 – sense of meeting vote, would require a charter change - Richard Smith stated it was in the best interest of the Town to keep strong chief; 20 is a new revolving fund, which would be a cut to receipt projections; 28 –

the previous petition is the same, but for advertising, policy should be implemented first; 41 will change to 248,000 for engine 3 and rescue one.

Shawn Reilly, Town Moderator – Finance Committee, School Committee, Moderator, Board of Selectmen are going to recommend that budget articles be postponed to May 10, 2010.

Treasurer/Collector updated unemployment figures, which are accurate with the information we have.

Town Manager Report – Paul Spiro, Building Inspector, has left to be full time building inspector in Sandwich. Steven Solari being appointed to fill this interim position. BOH agent appointed – Sharon White is starting on April 5, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nancy Hurst

RAB  
60/40 split

DEFICIT		1641398
Debt Exclusions	-617825	1023573
Selectmen's salary line item-includes elimination of Asst. Town Manager position Office to be staffed by Town Manager, 1 full time executive administrator -\$60,000 per year and one part time administrative assistant	-43000	980573
IT Budget-changes/improvements to be left to the new Town Mgr. to evaluate	-37000	943573
Building Inspector-19.5 hours/week	-43119	900454
Assessors-level funded from FY 2010	-2448	898006
Wiring Inspector-level funded from 2010	-372	897634
Employee concession on health insurance split	700434	197200
Restore Park and Recreation budget	80000	277200
POTENTIAL OVERRIDE OR REDUCTION IN TRASH BUDGET TO INSTITUTE PAY AS YOU THROW SYSTEM		277200
LIBRARY-LEVEL FUNDED		371955
Senior Center expenses	15000	356955
Council on Aging Director Part-time @ 19.5 hours	17500	339455
		321955
REVISED LIBRARY BUDGET		321955